



MINUTES OF THE RECESSED MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR THE
COUNTY OF LEE, STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

MAY 18, 2006

The recessed meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the County of Lee, State of North Carolina, convened at 3:00 p.m. in the Gordon Wicker Community Conference Room, Lee County Government Center, 106 Hillcrest Drive, Sanford, North Carolina, on said date. Commissioners present were W. Chad Adams, Robert H. Brown, Jerry M. Lemmond, Nathan E. Paschal, Robert T. Reives, and Amy L. Stevens. Chairman Herbert A. Hincks was in the building participating on a conference call, along with the County Manager, and was occasionally available throughout the meeting.

Vice-Chairman Brown presided in the Chairman's absence and the following business was transacted:

Commissioner Brown delivered the invocation.

IT Director Ryan Draughn gave a short presentation of the taped May 15, 2006 Commissioners meeting. Mr. Draughn explained that equipment had been loaned to the County in order for the meeting to be taped. If the County wishes to pursue the tapping of meetings, approximately \$17,000 will be needed to purchase three robotic cameras and needed accessories.

Finance Director Lisa Minter discussed a list of items Commissioners have discussed during previous budget work sessions and items they may wish to address prior to approving the budget.

The Board considered the purchase of new vehicles as recommended in the budget. Assistant County Manager Kenny Cole told the Board he had spoken with two local automobile dealers that would be interested in working with the County to purchase "program vehicles" instead of new vehicles. At the previous budget work session, the Board discussed only purchasing new vehicles for the Sheriff's Department, Fire Marshal's Office, and Department of Social Services. The County will receive a 50% match for vehicles purchased for Social Services. Mr. Cole stated that staff can save as much as 20% if "program vehicles" are purchased verses new vehicles. The budget originally allocated \$186,700 for the purchase of new vehicles.

County Attorney K. R. Hoyle updated the Board on a lawsuit concerning Mr. and Mrs. Robert Woodley, who at one time housed over 400 dogs at their home. During court proceedings, the animals were removed from the residence. Mr. Hoyle stated the Union County Humane Society is asking if Lee County would like to participate and join with them in reference to the AMICUS Brief. After some discussion, Commissioner Adams moved to authorize the inclusion of Lee County as supporting the AMICUS Brief of the Humane Society of Union County saying that Chapter 19A of the North Carolina General Statutes serves a valid purpose and should continue. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Adams, Brown, Lemmond, Paschal, Reives, and Stevens
Nay: None
Absent: Hincks

Vice Chairman Brown ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously.

The Board discussed vehicle purchases for FY 2006-07. Commissioner Adams moved to reduce all vehicle allocations by 20%, with the exception of emergency and Social Service vehicles, and allow departments to purchase new or "program vehicles". Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Adams, Brown, Lemmond, Paschal, and Stevens
Nay: Reives
Absent: Hincks

Vice Chairman Brown ruled the motion had been adopted by a five to one vote.

The Board discussed retirement health benefits. After some discussion, the consensus of the Board was to ask staff to research this matter and bring a recommendation to the Board concerning retirement health benefits for employees that have worked for Lee County for at least 15 years.

The Board discussed a \$15,000 funding request from HAVEN of Lee County. Commissioner Reives, Chairman of the Finance Committee, stated that the Finance Committee, at their May 5, 2006 meeting, recommended HAVEN be funded \$10,000 for FY 2006-07.

Commissioner Hincks joined the meeting at this time.

After further discussion pertaining to funding for HAVEN, Commissioner Reives moved to appropriate \$10,000 for HAVEN of Lee County for FY 2006-07. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Brown, Lemmond, Paschal, and Reives
Nay: Adams, Hincks, and Stevens

Vice Chairman Brown ruled the motion had been adopted by a four to three vote.

Commissioner Adams stressed that by supporting HAVEN with their funding request, it could cause other non-profit agencies to start asking for annual assistance.

Staff was asked to bring a policy to the Board for consideration on how to handle the distribution of funds to non-profit agencies.

Commissioner Stevens moved to appropriate an additional \$29,917 to Central Carolina Community College to address the County Manager's funding formula. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Adams, Brown, Hincks, Lemmond, Paschal, Reives, and Stevens
Nay: None

Vice Chairman Brown ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously.

At this time, Assistant County Manager Kenny Cole introduced Ms. Joyce McGehee who will be the new Human Resource Director effective May 30, 2006.

Commissioner Lemmond discussed the \$10,400 appropriation recommended by the County Manager for Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action. Commissioner Lemmond moved that the Johnston-Lee-Harnett appropriation be increased to \$11,400. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Adams, Brown, Hincks, Lemmond, Paschal, Reives, and Stevens
Nay: None

Vice Chairman Brown ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously.

County Manager David Smitherman discussed projected revenue cost for Environmental Health for FY 2006-07. No action was taken.

The Board discussed code enforcement with the City of Sanford. At the May 15, 2006 meeting, Community Development Director Bob Bridwell furnished options and levels of service for Lee County to consider pertaining to code enforcement. Commissioner Adams moved for the County Manager to appropriate \$20,000 for limited on-call code enforcement complaints, and work with the City of Sanford to address this option with the approved appropriation. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Adams, Brown, Hincks, Lemmond, Paschal, Reives, and Stevens
Nay: None

Vice Chairman Brown ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously.

The Board considered tapping and broadcasting of Commissioner's meetings. Commissioner Brown moved to add \$7,500 to the FY 2006-07 budget to purchase required equipment for tapping of Commissioner's meetings. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Adams, Brown, Hincks, Lemmond, Paschal, and Stevens
Nay: Reives

Vice Chairman Brown ruled the motion had been adopted by a six to one vote.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the recommended FY 2006-07 budget as presented by the County Manager, along with changes approved during the budget work session, and maintain the current tax rate of 79 cents per one hundred dollar (\$100.00) valuation. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Adams, Brown, Hincks, Lemmond, Paschal, Reives, and Stevens
Nay: None

Vice Chairman Brown ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously.

With no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Adams moved to adjourn the meeting. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Adams, Brown, Hincks, Lemmond, Paschal, Reives, and Stevens
Nay: None

Vice Chairman Brown ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously and the meeting adjourned in keeping with the motion.

Robert H. Brown, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:

Gaynell M. Lee, Clerk